



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

JEFFERSON CITY MAN SENTENCED FOR ILLEGAL FIREARMS POSSESSION

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a Jefferson City, Mo., man was sentenced in federal court today for being a felon in possession of a firearm.

Raymond Craig Higginbotham, 42, of Jefferson City, was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Scott O. Wright this morning to nine years and two months in federal prison without parole.

On April 27, 2005, **Higginbotham** pleaded guilty to the charge contained in a Feb. 17, 2004, federal indictment. **Higginbotham** admitted that he was in possession of a Rohm .22 caliber revolver and ammunition on Nov. 29, 2003. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for anyone convicted of a felony to be in possession of any firearm or ammunition. **Higginbotham** has 1987 criminal felony convictions for second degree murder and armed criminal action in St. Louis, Mo., 1985 criminal felony convictions for robbery and stealing in St. Louis, and a 1982 criminal felony conviction for theft by receiving stolen property in Douglas County, Neb.

Higginbotham was arrested on Nov. 29, 2003, when police officers responded to a report of shots being fired in the 900 block of Harding Street. **Higginbotham**, contacted by law enforcement outside his residence after firing a round into the air above his head with a handgun, was ordered to drop the gun. Instead, **Higginbotham** ran from the police officers, firing at the officers several times as they pursued him on foot and returned fire. **Higginbotham** was taken into custody when officers found him in a creek bed.

This case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Jim Lynn. It was investigated by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives and the Jefferson City, Mo., Police Department.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at

www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow